

# STATEMENT OF NEED

## **Environmental Resource Specialist (ERS)**

**in the Libby/Troy/Lincoln County  
Area**

# Local Pizza Restaurant



Remodel effort by owner becomes front page story in local paper

Owner wanted new siding and ran into  
Vermiculite Containing Insulation (VCI)





Resident demolished a small outbuilding that contained  
VCI in the cement block walls.



# Statement of Need

- To date, the Environmental Protection Agency has cleaned up over 600 hundred properties. At many of these properties some quantity of VCI and Libby Amphibole (LA) material has been left in place. Property owners, (business or residential), routinely perform general maintenance, remodel and repair work and come in contact with VCI and LA contaminated fill material. This physical contact could lead to exposure to LA.

## Lincoln County Residents who come in contact with either VCI or LA.

- Property owners
  - Tenants
- Local contractors
  - Plumbing
  - Heating
  - Electrical
  - Septic maintenance
  - Carpentry
  - Utility installers
  - Chimney and fireplace maintenance

- Lawn and garden workers
- Urban Foresters
- Public Utility Workers
- Excavators
- Cement and Foundation Contractors

These people all work around material that could contain hazardous levels of LA contamination.

Currently there is no local regulation outside of Libby City limits for:

- Home Remodels
- Building Demolitions
- Excavations
- Etc.



# Current Status

- General repair, maintenance, and remodeling are delayed by property owners while the EPA contractors work through their cleanup schedule. The major stakeholders agree that an Environmental Resource Specialist (ERS) is presently needed to address the needs of local residents.

# Major Stakeholders

- US Environmental Protection Agency
- Montana Dept of Environmental Quality
- Lincoln County Commissioners
- Libby City Council
- Troy City Council
- Libby Area Technical Assistance Group
- Community Advisory Group
- Operations and Maintenance Subcommittee
- WR Grace

# All Stakeholders Agree:

On the need for a rational approach and management system at the local level to deal with the realities of contaminated material in the community that:

- 1) has not yet been removed by EPA
- 2) has been left in place (walls, at depth in yards, etc) after EPA cleanup.



*City of Libby*

952 E. Spruce St.  
Post Office Box 1428  
Libby, Montana 59923

Phone 406-293-2731  
Fax 406-293-4090

August 16, 2005

United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region 8  
Superfund Remedial Program  
EPR-SR  
999 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500  
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Attn: Jim Christiansen  
Remedial Project Manager

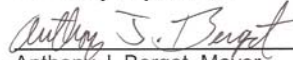
Re: USEPA Libby Asbestos Project  
Statement of Need: Community Resource Specialist

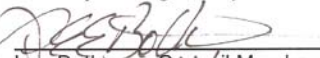
Dear Jim,

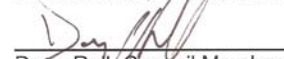
The Libby City Council hereby expresses its unanimous support regarding the need for a Community Resource Specialist. The City Council would like to invite EPA to discuss the role, responsibilities and administration of the position as well as liability issues associated with the position. The Libby City Council would like to see representatives from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Lincoln County and the City of Troy involved in these discussions as well.

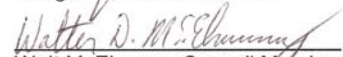
Sincerely,

The Libby City Council

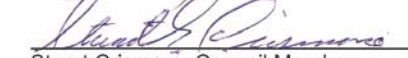
  
Anthony J. Berget, Mayor

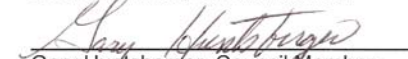
  
Lee Bothman, Council Member

  
Doug Roll, Council Member

  
Walt McElmurry, Council Member

  
Charlene Leckrone, President

  
Stuart Crismore, Council Member

  
Gary Huntsberger, Council Member



Montana Department of  
**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

P.O. Box 200901 • Helena, MT 59620-0901 • (406) 444-2544 • [www.deq.mt.gov](http://www.deq.mt.gov)

February 13, 2006

Jim Christiansen  
United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 8  
Superfund Remedial Program  
EPR-SR  
999 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500  
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Re: Libby Asbestos Superfund NPL Site  
Environmental Resource Specialist

Dear Mr. Christiansen,

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) supports the concept of an Environmental Resource Specialist for future protection of human health at the Libby Asbestos Superfund Site. DEQ anticipates detailed discussions regarding the description, authority, liability, and responsibility of the position as well as funding. All discussions should include, at a minimum, representatives from Lincoln County, the towns of Troy and Libby, DEQ, and EPA. I will serve as the DEQ representative for such discussions.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I can be reached at 1-800-246-8198, 406-841-5040 or electronically at [clecours@state.mt.us](mailto:clecours@state.mt.us).

Sincerely,

Catherine LeCours  
Superfund Project Manager  
Remediation Division



P O Box 823, Troy, Montana 59935

(406) 295-4151

FAX (406)295-4540

## THE CITY OF TROY

James C. Hammons, Mayor

COUNCIL  
Laura Schrader  
Larry Baker  
Ron Pierce  
Ron Rebo

June 2, 2006

Jim Christiansen, Remedial Project Manager  
ESEPA – Region 8 EPR-SR  
999 – 18th Street, Suite 500  
Denver, Colorado 80202-2466

RE: USEPA Asbestos Project – Libby/Troy  
Community Resource Specialist

The City of Troy, Mayor, and Council support the need of a Community Resource Specialist.

We feel that it is in the best interest of all to delineate the responsibilities and liabilities that would be associated with this position, and to know what role the City of Troy may have as far as any associated administrative responsibility. We would welcome any discussions with the EPA representatives, as well as those from the Montana DEQ, Lincoln County and the City of Libby.

Sincerely,



James C. Hammons, Mayor  
City of Troy

# COUNTY

- Verbal commitment / letter

# Job Description

- The Environmental Resource Specialist (ERS) will be a full time position employed by the City of Libby pursuant to a memorandum of understanding between the City of Libby, the City of Troy, and Lincoln County.

# Job Description

- The purpose of this position will be to provide a local educational resource to residents and business owners within the EPA Libby Asbestos Project Study Area to assist them in dealing with issues related to Libby Amphibole (LA) asbestos and vermiculite issues.

# Job Description

- An important function of the ERS position will be to implement and administer the local components of the Operations and Maintenance Plan provided in the EPA's Record of Decision (ROD) for the Libby Superfund site.



# General Duties

- Job requires the employee to be “on call” during evenings and weekends to provide information about LA and vermiculite since many home owners tend to perform renovation tasks on the weekend or after business hours.
- Employee must have demonstrable knowledge of MDEQ Asbestos regulations and requirements and EPA’s guidelines and criteria for removing LA and vermiculite in the Libby area.

# General Duties

- Perform inspections of residential and commercial buildings.
- Answer phone calls from residents requiring information. Answer questions about removal, transportation and disposal of contaminated materials.
- Assist contractors that encounter LA or vermiculite.

# General Duties

- Collect environmental samples?
- Provide for coordination, administration, maintenance of chain-of-custody, and shipment of any environmental samples collected.
- Provide advice to property owners during remodeling and demolition activities.

# General Duties

- Assist EPA and MDEQ at the local level to provide a series of education and free training courses to local property owners, residents, contractors and workers.
- Keep records
- Assist EPA and MDEQ and the local governments with preparation of reports.

# General Duties

- Enforce any local ordinances enacted to regulate LA or vermiculite.
- Successful candidate must have excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Proficient with basic use of computer and email, etc.



# Physical Requirements

- Valid Montana Drivers License  
(commercial?)
- Ability to climb stairways and ladders
- Ability to lift 50 lbs
- Ability to wear a respirator and other  
personal protection equipment (PPE).

# Training Requirements

- AHERA Asbestos Inspector (32 hour training for certification)
- AHERA Contractor Supervisor (32 hour training for certification) [Note: Employee will be able to transport contaminated materials if he or she has this training.]
- International Building Code (?)

# Equipment Requirements

- Vehicle
- Cell phone
- Radio?
- Computer
- Office space/cubicle?

# Fiscal Requirements

- Salary
- Benefits
- Worker's Compensation Coverage

# Related Issues

- Once the position is initially funded by the EPA, the ERS may need to have at his or her disposal a number of pieces of equipment or the ability to refer the property owner to a source where removal equipment can be loaned after instruction on proper use.



# Potential Equipment Needs

This removal equipment may need to include but not be limited to:

- Quality, medium volume, wet-dry shop HEPA vacuum
- Quality storage bags
- HAZMAT coveralls, respirators, etc.

# Frequently Asked Questions/Arguments

- Who will supervise ERS position?
- How do we avoid a “Country Pizza” mishap in the future? By working with the city to require a permit? Do building codes need to be updated?
- Who will enforce noncompliance?
- Is a county-wide ordinance necessary? Overlay Zone?
- EPA will offer free training to contractors in Libby. Should certification be mandatory?

# Frequently Asked Questions/Arguments

- Who will pay the salary?
- Who will the employee work for?

# Frequently Asked Questions/Arguments

- Will this employee do any:
- Sampling?
- Monitoring?
- Site Characterization?
- Clearance sampling?

# Frequently Asked Questions/Arguments

- What about liability for
- City?
- County?
- State?

# Frequently Asked Questions/Arguments

- Trained as an asbestos inspector?
- Will this employee do any removal or clean-up work?
- How will contaminated materials be disposed?
- How will contaminated material be transported?